

District of Columbia ESEA Flexibility Waiver New Assessment Implementation Amendment



District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of
Education

Jesús Aguirre, State Superintendent
October - November 2014

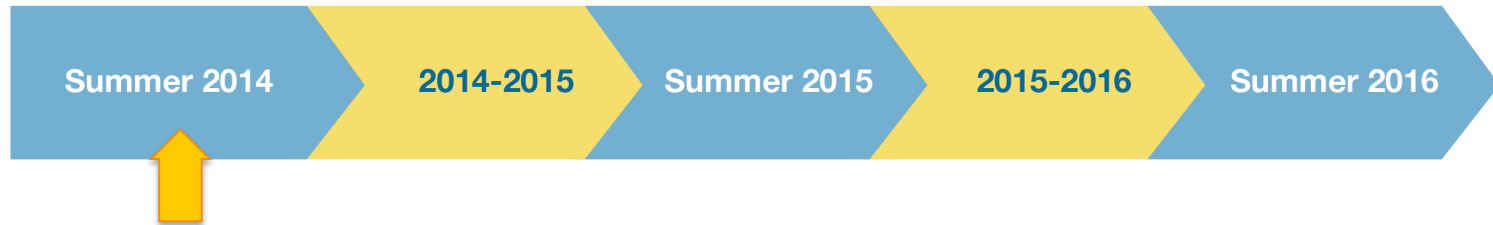
Overview of DC ESEA Flexibility Waiver

- D.C. was granted an ESEA Flexibility Waiver from certain provisions of the No Child Left Behind by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) from July 2012 through summer of 2014.
- The Waiver was designed to ensure states created a rigorous and comprehensive education plan addressing three critical areas:
 - Close achievement gaps
 - Increase equity and access to effective teachers
 - Improve the quality of instruction and student achievement
- In September, the District of Columbia received a one-year extension to its Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver.



KEY CHANGES IN THE ESEA WAIVER

2014-2015 School Classification



- The 2014 DC CAS results for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math were reported and used to create new school classifications for the 2014-2015 school year (SY). The approved ESEA waiver extension postpones the inclusion of science for school classification to SY16-17.
- As approved by the State Board of Education, science scores were not used to classify schools. However, a second, unofficial set of school classifications which included science scores were released.



PROPOSED AMENDMENT: IMPLEMENTING A NEW ASSESSMENT

“Hold Harmless” Amendment

OSSE, in partnership with the DC State Board of Education, is currently preparing an amendment that would exclude high-stakes decision making during the first year of implementing a new assessment.

“Hold Harmless” Amendment

For a school year in which the District administers a new statewide ELA, Math or Science assessment, OSSE will not calculate and report statistics that require a comparison of the new assessment scores to a baseline year (e.g. student growth) and no high stakes decisions (e.g. school classifications) will be made based on these measures.

Proposed ESEA Flexibility Waiver Amendment (page 71)

2014-2015 School Year



During SY2014-2015, OSSE will administer the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment for ELA and Math and introduce a new science assessment that is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to set a new baseline to measure student growth.

2015-2016 School Classification



Pending approval by the U.S. Department of Education and the DC State Board of Education, no new school classifications will be made using the School Index Scores following SY14-15. Results from the new assessments (ELA, math and science) administered in SY14-15 will be reported and used to set a new baseline to measure growth the following year.

2015-2016 School Classification



For schools that were classified as FOCUS and PRIORITY with School Index Scores, OSSE is exploring an alternative exit measurement in lieu of School Index Scores where Focus and Priority schools can demonstrate meaningful progress and performance to effect a change to their status.

Note that the classification of **PRIORITY** and **FOCUS** schools using measures of graduation and test participation rates (*measures that do not rely on a baseline year*) will not pause and will continue as usual.

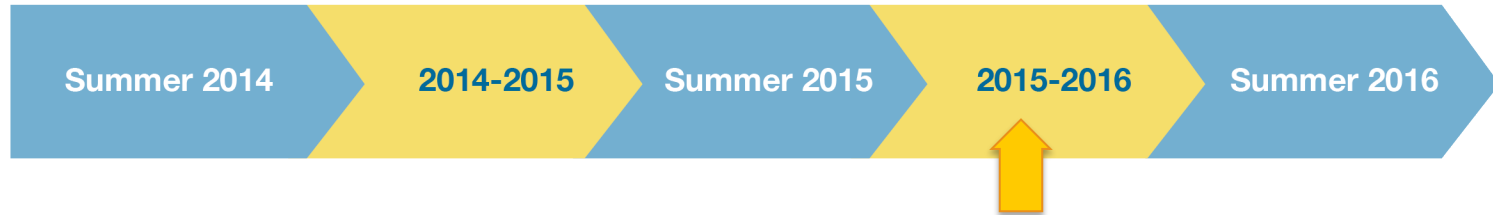
2015-2016 Teacher Evaluations



Teacher evaluations will not be based on student growth measured by the state assessment. The U.S. Department of Education has shared with OSSE new guidelines that release states from the need to amend Principle 3 to account for the implementation of PARCC.

The Department has emphasized Secretary Duncan's statement, which relaxed the requirements around teacher evaluation for one year without any additional amendments required at this time.

2015-2016 School Year



Students take PARCC and NGSS aligned science assessment for the second year. Therefore, scores from these assessments can be compared to the baseline that was set during the first year to establish student growth calculations.

2016-2017 School Classification



DC reports assessment results (ELA, Math and Science) and uses them for high-stakes decision making (school classifications).

Next Steps

- Past and Future Public Engagement
 - October 1, 2014: LEA Data Discussion Meeting
 - October 4, 2014: Ward 7 Community Meeting
 - October 14, 2014: Ward 4 Education Alliance Meeting
 - **October 25 – November 18**: OSSE will participate in numerous PTA and community meetings
 - **November 22** – DC Education Festival
- Continuing discussions with U.S. Department of Education
- SBOE Vote in November

Q & A

For more information, write to:
osse.esewaiver@dc.gov

Public comments are accepted through Wednesday, November 5